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## THE CHRONICLES OF DON Q.

BY K. and HASKELL PRITCHARD.

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the debt grew, and became very rid considerations." went on Don Q heavy." The lad paused a moment and sighed. "Yet when the sun minone again we were happy, and my father paid the usurer year by year, though we were often bungry. I do not know, lord how many times over my father paid his debt to Iapoulo—more than 60 times that which he had borrowed, I have heard in three hiding places, to which I have given the names of l'adre, Mappers—sometimes more—sometimes less."

"I have at various times secreted in three hiding places, to which I have given the names of l'adre, Mappers—sometimes more—sometimes less."

"Ah, unhappy ones! it is always so," commented the brigand.

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"Ab, unhappy ones! it is alwa "Then, senor of the mountains, my father died two years ago, and I, who lived alone with my mother, swore to gather the full price of the debt, that we might be free. I jourdebt, that we might be free. I jourdebt, who ever finds which any like buried. Further, whoever finds poulo struck excitedly at the rocky certain precious thing in the plains, for which he promised me a payment of the boundary of the boundar neyed into Malaga to the house of Nino will find also second plan lad- earth with a spade; but progress was for which he promised me a payment lapoulo, and they told me the sum ing them to Madre, and he who has slow. The night deepened into the of 20,000 pesetas, which he failed to small hours; still they labored until pay." Robledo brought out a ragged

later late and early, and we gathered day on the appointed day I entered a day I entered a on the appointed day I entered a day I entered a on the appointed day I entered a on the appointed day I entered a day

hast year what has accused. It is sentimented I should be obliged to out if this was the law, then would a swore that for that thing which he as that for that thing which he as the foreign of the first of the property of the plains. The start of the plains of the plains of the plains of the plains of the plains. The start of the plains of the plains of the plains of the plains. The start of the plains of the plains of the plains of the plains. The start of the plains of the plains of the plains of the plains of the plains. The plain of the plains of the plains of the plains of the plains of the plains. The plain of the plains of the plains of the plains of the plains of the plains. The plain of the plains of the plains of the plains of the plains. The plains of the plains of the plains of the plains of the plains. The plains of the plains of the plains of the plains of the plains. The plain of the plains of the plains of the plains. The plain of the plains of the plains of the plains. The plain of the plains of the plains of the plains. The plain of the plains of the plains of the plains. The plain of all of the plains of the plains. The plain of all of the plains of the plains. The plain of all of the plains of the plains. The plain of all of the plains of the plains. The plains of the plains of the plains. The plain of all of the plains of the plains. The plain of all of the plains of the plains. The plains of the plains of the plains.

not believe, and he called me many names and clutched his knees with his fingers, and his eyes were like his black beads when the firelight shines 20,000 pessetas, but that is to be your price. My child, would you be tray me for 20,000 pessetas?"

Q. "I cried to him that indeed I had under the tan.

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"I cried to him that indeed I had under the tan.

"I cried to him that indeed I had searcely passed from Iapoulo's reluctant fingers, and his eyes were like figure bearing a singular likeness to the brooding carrion birds which he had seen on his journey into the mountains,

"May I inquire upon what you busy yourselves, senor?" asked Don Q.'s suave, sibilant voice at last.

In the long pause Iapoulo collected his wants paper, pen and ink."

"The lest coln had scarcely passed from Iapoulo's reluctant fingers, when he wrapped his worn cloak about his neck. "Now I am free! I will go!"

"May I inquire upon what you busy yourselves, senor?" asked Don Q.'s suave, sibilant voice at last.

In the long pause Iapoulo collected his face, reddening with passion.

"I'd o not need them," The usurer believed he could score a point. "If I refuse to write what can you do?" the usury."

"The story you have told me does indeed show this Iapoulo in a very villainous light," remarked Don Q. sadly. "I fear the fellow is an incurable rufflan, for I have heard simulation of the curable rufflan other girls. But the debts owing to you."

The story of the reasure named Nino.

Instead, however, of proving his graticulation of the knew lay five days of hard travel and the debts owing to you."

The story of the reasure named Nino.

Instead, however, of proving his graticulation of the curable rufflan of the curable

of the debt that remained, and the day on which I should pay it and be free. So, lord, we worked early and late, late and early, and we gathered the money. And on the appointed He rose, and, walking to the falle, late and dirty box was disclosed.

I matered Melaga and went to took up an envelope.

The courage to seek madre vill discourage to seek madre vill discou

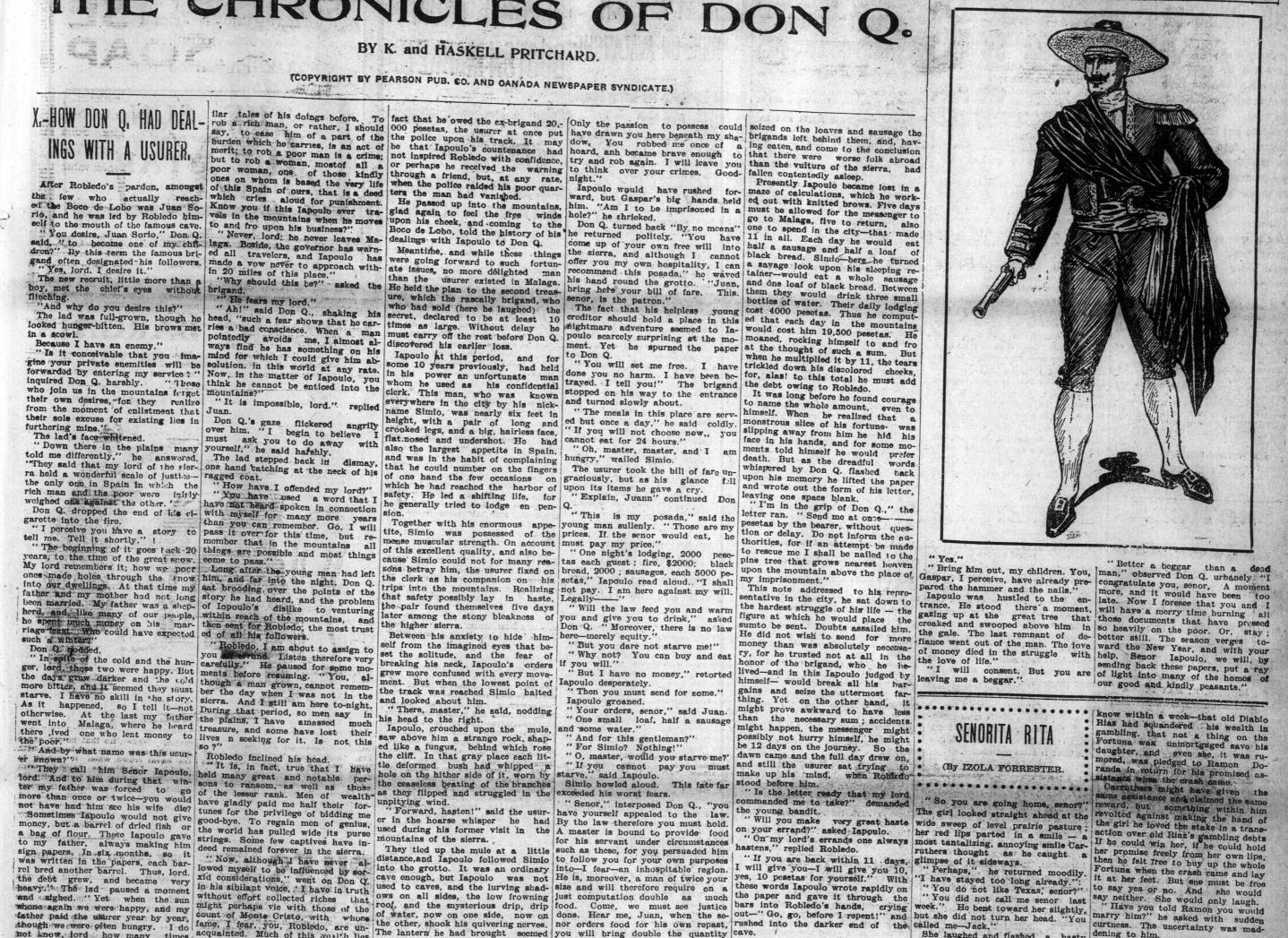
Early on the 11th day Juan announced the return of Robledo, and a little later Don Q., with a few of bis followers entered the cave. Ro-

said the brigand, "and your credit-ors shall come in before you. Juan, stand out." The lad at once stepped forward, pearing a long bill in his hand.

How much does it amount to?" By careful counting, lord, it adds up to 284,500 pesetas. Refusal to pay or any cavilling at

poula.

Not too quickly, interposed Don and snapped her small, tanned finbelieved he could score a point. "If concluded. You have paid your debt, not give that for the silly kid lover the interposed Don and snapped her small, tanned finbelieved he could score a point. "If concluded. You have paid your debt, not give that for the silly kid lover



but she did not turn her head. "You called me—Jack."

Carruthers did not notice the concession or her gay scorn. Her stared the herd. "Look!" she cried. "They are out to where the cattle browsed— a stampeding!" sea of still, brown waves, hundreds of them, motionless and peaceful in the morning sunrise. Here and there on the outskirts stood a figure of a horse, with a silent rider, watching the grating herd. Carruthers' gaze on one herder at the extreme north. Even with the distance of nearly a mille between them he knew what the figure looked like, knew that it was watching them as he was watching it. It was not a pleasant knowledge.

"You have changed your mind, Senorita Rita," he said bitterly, "since Ramon came to the ranch. I was very happy—in Texas, until your bids."

"How are stampeding!"

Carruthers looked. The brown sea had suddenly stirred to life. Undulating, swaying, branching out loosed ly at the edges, it was lurching toward them. There seemed to be nothing rapid or swift about its coming. Carruthers thought, almost idly of how it resembled the swing of a bunch of race-horses rounding the end of the field, when the movement was so concerted, so deliberate, that it hardly seemed a movement. The herders were riding here and there in confusion. They seemed mere specks of helpless misdirection in the distance. sea of still, brown waves, hundreds

Fortuna Ranch again. You are— what did you call me the day I cried She obeyed, watching him in breathsulk and ride away. He stays and rumble in the air like far off thun fights. See!" She held up her hand and snapped her small, tanned fingers sharply in the air. "I would carefully, he produced one match.

'I have stayed too long already.'':

'You do not like Texas, senor?''

You did not call me senor last

'You did not call me senor last

'Have you told Ramon you would the sendon would the sendo He bent toward her slightly, marry him?" he asked with sudder

curtness. The uncertainty was maddening to him.
"Why do you ask?" she answered She laughed and flashed a hasty glance at him from her soft, dark teasingly.

"Rita," he pleaded, "be serious." She raised her arm with a sudden

was very happy—in Texas, until your tance.

Rita's face had lost its color. She turned her horse about, the rein short and tight in her cienched hand.
"We must race pefore them as they come," she said. "If the keep their strength they will

But Carruthers had slipped from his saddle.
"It is sure death to try to ride with them, mount and do as I tell you."

The stern masterfulness of his tone

startled her. He had never spoken I ke that to her, no one had. "Hold the horses," he ordered. what did you call me the day I cried when Pep broke his leg?—kid, that is it; you are a big, foolish kid, Mister Jack. When a man loves he does not distinct. There was a heavy, low "That is the only one I have,"

come, whereat he sent for those wno refused me entrance. They came, lord of the mountains, and with oaths Iswore that never before had been been and they behold mig. and then Senor Iapoulo grinned, well satisfied, and said, "Give me the money you have brought and I will torgive your lies. Go, be industrieus and render to maxt year what has accrued. It is man," Let's man, which as a second of the long pause Iapoulo collected is write what can you do?" Senor, it is true, but not the interest" screamed the money you have brought and I will forgive your lies. Go, be industrieus and render to maxt year what has accrued. It is added. "I fear if you become the law." Then fury seized me, and I cried out if this was the law, then would if this was the law, then would of Malaga where the girls danced."

I he a lawbreaker forward to meetrance. They came, lord the money you do?"

I had been an in the long pause Iapoulo collected in white what can you do?"

I refuse to write what can you do?"

I' refuse to write what can you do?"

The interest" screamed the momey lender.

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"Yes," said Don Q. "Our debts in this career permitted has bould themselves of the said; and, indeed, in some treasure which long ago has have the displayed have been with displayed to the whole with displayed to the whole as the subtry."

"Yes," said Don Q. "Our debts in the money you would not care the money you would not care the money you may south over the days. It is abad custom which you in the plains have the pains."

"Don Q. looked at him curiously.

"The interest" screamed the momey lender.

"Yes," said Don Q. "Our debts in the money would on Q. "Yes," said Don Q. "Our debts in the mountains double themselves the money would not care the would on the plains have the subtry."

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